1890

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Oct 30th at 11 A. M.

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Present -

Mr Green — Miss Ticknor

Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier -

On motion of Mr Nourse it was voted that Miss Sohier should act as secretary of the Commission

After some discussion as to the necessity of adopting a name which would clearly show the objects of the Commission it was.

Name — Voted That the name of the Commission be "The Free Library Commission"

Stationery — It was voted that the secretary should purchase stationery for the use of the Commission

Travelling Expenses — It was voted that the travelling expenses of members of the Commission should be paid from the State appropriation & that they should be paid quarterly

Bills It was voted that all bills should be approved by the chairman -

Circular. It was voted that the chairman & secretary should prepare a circular & send copies to each member of the commission before the next meeting, & that after such circular had been approved by the Commission it should be printed & copies should be sent to town clerks & other persons likely to interested in the work of the Commission -

It was voted that some form of acceptance of the Act should also be prepared for the use of town clerks - in towns which take advantage of the privileges extended to them by Chap. 347 of the Acts of 1890

It was voted that each member of the commission should prepare a list of 50 books before the next meeting which would be suitable for such libraries as the Commission is designed to encourage.

It was voted that monthly meetings of the Commission be held upon the last

Thursday of each month at 11.15 A.M.

It was voted that as the last Thursday of Nov. would be Thanksgiving Day, the monthly meeting should be held on Nov 20th

adjourned

C P Solvier Sec'y

1890

The Commission met Thursday Nov 20th at 11.15
Mr Tillinghast in the chair.
Present.
Mr Nourse. Miss Ticknor. Miss Sohier

A telegram was received from Mr Green stating that an accident on the railroad would delay his arrival in Boston —

Name After some discussion, it was voted to reconsider the vote of the last meeting concerning the name of the Commission as it appeared that the title Free Library Commission might seem to include some libraries which did not come within the province of the Commission. It was voted to use the exact words of the Act itself & adopt as the name of the Commission the "Free Public Library Commission."

Circular The circular which had been prepared was read section by section — Certain verbal changes were made & the circular so amended was approved.

lists Miss Ticknor presented a list of 30 books suitable for the purposes of the Commission & Mr Bourne presented two lists one prepared by himself & one by the librarian of the Lancaster library. The books upon either list could be purchased for $100.

The chairman read letters from Mr T. W Higginson, Mrs Edna D. Cheney & others whom he had consulted as to the wisest selection of books for small libraries

As the last Thursday of Dec would be Christmas Day it was voted to hold the monthly meeting on Thursday Dec 18.

Adjourned

E P Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met Thursday Dec 18th
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Present

Mr Greene	Miss Ticknor
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

The reports of both previous meetings were read & approved

The chairman presented a list of the towns which he considered were entitled to aid from the state in the establishment of town libraries

It was voted to send a copy of the circular to the town clerks of all towns upon the list.

It was voted that the history of town libraries which the chairman was preparing for the report of the Board of Education should be printed with the annual report of the Commission

It was voted that the chairman should prepare the annual report of the Commission with such assistance as he might request from

the other members upon the special subjects -

It was voted to purchase stationery & postage to the amount of about $100 from the appropriation of the current year.

It was voted that a card catalogue be prepared of the books which had been recommended by members of the commission, & Miss Tickenor was requested to engage a copyist & superintend the work -

It was voted that the chairman should prepare some proper form of acceptance of the act in favor of town libraries which could be used by town clerks.

It was voted that the monthly meetings be held hereafter upon the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

1891

The Commission met Thursday Jan 15 1891

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Present

Mr Green — Miss Tickenor

Mr Mourse — Miss Sohier

The report of the last meeting was read & approved

The chairman reported that Circulars had been sent to all the town clerks on the list in accordance with the vote at the last meeting & to certain other persons.

Miss Tickenor brought the new card catalogue for examination & the method of cataloguing was approved.

The Commission considered informally the question of asking for any further legislation ~~& decided~~ this year & decided that it would be most prudent to do so before the results of the present Law had been more fully ascertained.

The chairman presented a list of towns entitled to the benefit of the

act classified according to their existing libraries where any such were to be found which were not owned & controlled by the town —

The means which could be taken to reach certain towns were discussed —

It was voted to hold an extra meeting on Thursday Jan 29th in order to consider the annual report —

Adjourned

C. P. Fisher

Secretary

The Commission met Thursday June 29th at 11.15 A.M.
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair.
Present

Mr Greene
Mr Nourse
Miss Tickner
Miss Sohier.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The chairman submitted a report which he had prepared containing classified lists of towns & the facts concerning the town libraries of the state & the work of the commission. He also submitted in manuscript the papers which had been prepared on special subjects at his request by other members of the commission with a view to their insertion in the report.

After some discussion it was ~~decided~~ that the suggestions contained in these papers would be more useful & could be more widely distributed if they were printed in some other form & it was

Voted That the report to the legislature should contain only the facts as presented in the report of the chairman & that the other papers should be preserved for future use.

It was voted that the chairman should be authorized to sign the names of the members of the commission to the report & to present it to the Legislature as the report of the Commission

Informal reports were made as to Correspondence with different towns & the prospect of the acceptance of the Act at various town meetings.

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

1891

The Commission met Thursday Feb 19 at 11.15 A.M.
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Present
Mr Green. Mr Nourse. Miss Sohier —

A letter was read from Miss Ticknor regretting that she would be prevented from being present by illness

Informal reports were made concerning several towns -

The chairman stated that he had written to several publishers as to discounts & read the replies he had received - As in one case at least a request was made that the offer should be considered confidential the arrangements were left in the hands of the chairman & no record was was to be made of the terms offered

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secy

The Commission met Thursday March 19 at 11.15 A.M.
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman read a letter from Miss Sohier regretting that she was not well enough to be present as she has intended.

The chairman stated that it was evident that a number of towns had accepted the act but that it was impossible to ascertain the exact number as yet.

Letters were read from several of the towns — The letter from Windsor stated that the books were to be divided & used in the three villages. It was voted to prepare a list of books for Windsor subject to such alterations as might be found to be necessary — & a list was so prepared by the commission & left with the chairman to be arranged more carefully & he was authorized to send the books at his convenience

Adjourned
E P. Sohier Secretary

The Commission met Thursday April 16 at 11.15 A.M.
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Present -

Mr Green — Miss Tickner
Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier -

The chairman reported that the following towns had officially accepted the Act & had taken the necessary steps to secure the state appropriation -

Berlin	April 8.
Falmouth	March 16
Goshen	March 16
Mashpee	March 14
Monterey	April 1
Pelham	March 31
Penn	March 14
Plainfield	March 25
Plympton	April 1st
Sandwich	March 30
Windsor	March 16

A number of other towns had also officially accepted the act although no official notice

had been received —

The chairman also reported that the books
Windsor had been sent to Windsor in accordance with
the vote of the last meeting.

He had also sent a portion of the books
to which Falmouth was entitled by request of
the trustees in order to enable the town to
receive the benefit of a legacy which was
Falmouth dependent on the establishment of a library
before April 1st 1890 — The trustees therefore
desired to comply with the conditions of the
bequest before April 1st.

It was voted that the chairman should
be authorized to send books to any towns
where he considered it desirable before the
next meeting. & that each member of the
commission should aid him by preparing
a list suitable for one or more towns, &
should send such list when prepared
to the chairman & that the books should
then be sent to the towns subject to such
changes in the lists as the chairman might
think desirable.

Miss Lucknor was asked to arrange a list for Avon, & Mr Nourse for Peru, Plympton & Berlin —

It was decided that in preparing such lists only books should be included which it was believed would meet the approval of all members of the board & that in doubtful cases some other book should be substituted. As far as possible the wishes of the town should be consulted, but that only good books should be sent.

Adjourned
E P Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met at the State House Thursday May 21st at 11.15 A. M.

Mr Tillinghast in the chair.

Present.

Mr Greene	Miss Tickenor
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that the following towns had accepted the Act of 1890 & taken the necessary steps to secure the appropriation from the state.

Boxborough.	April 22
Granby	April 19
Hamilton	April 7
Mount Washington	May 2
New Ashford	April 22
Sandwich	March 30
Westport	May 2

The chairman also reported that in accordance with the vote of the preceding meeting books had been sent to the following towns, or

Monterey

Peru.

Goshen
Boxborough
Sandwich
Plainfield
Hamilton
Berlin
New Ashford
Westport
Fort Washington
Mashpee

making 14 towns including Windsor & Falmouth for which the books had been supplied —

Miss Sohier reported that $10 had been sent her by Mrs Wm Appleton for the purchase of books concerning animals & likely to inculcate kindness to animals. The secretary was requested to express to Mrs Appleton the thanks of the Commission for her gift to the town libraries —

The question of methods of administration of small libraries was discussed & it was voted to hold a special meeting on Friday June 8th in order more fully to consider what advice & assistance the Commission should give to such towns

as desired its aid.

The chairman was authorized to prepare a specimen catalogue on sheets, if he thought it desirable & coned do at the expense of some advertiser upon such catalogue —

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

A Special meeting of the Commission was held Friday June 5th at the State House

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Tickner.

The records of the last meeting were read & approved

The best method of administering small libraries was discussed & it was decided to have some suggestions which were agreed upon copied by typewriter for use by the members of the commission when advice was requested, but it was not thought expedient to print any formal recommendations for general distribution —

The chairman was requested to send a copy of the suggestions to the members of the Commission for revision after he had arranged a form satisfactory to himself

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Sec'y

The monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Thursday June. 18th.

Mr Tilling host in the Chair –

Present

Mr Green Mr Nourse.

The chairman presented proofs of a card for use in such libraries as should wish to adopt it. The details of the card were thoroughly discussed. & it was voted.

That the chairman be authorized to print 5000 copies & to furnish them without charge to the towns which desire to make use of them.

The Chairman reported that the following towns had accepted the Act of 1890 –

Bourne	June 1st
Greenwich	May 26
Leverett	May 26
Prescott	June 12
Rowley	May 30
West Stockbridge	May 19.

The chairman also reported that books had been sent to the following towns

Bourne
Chilmark
Granby
Greenwich
Hampden
Pelham
Penn
Rowley
West Stockbridge -

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Thursday July 17th at 11.15
Mr Tillinghast in the chair —

Present

Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman made a report of the progress of the work of the Commission up to the present time & read the correspondence; & stated the most important facts concerning each of the 36 towns which appeared to have taken steps to secure the State appropriation From several of these towns no official notice had yet been received.

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Leverett
Otis
Prescott

Adjourned
E P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met Thursday Aug. 20th at 11.15 AM

Present.

Mr Illinghast, in the Chair_

Mr Green. Mr Nourse Miss Sohier_

The chairman made a report of the work of the Commission up to the present time & letters & documents from different towns were read_

The chairman stated that there was a movement to establish a free library in Wareham which would be turned over to the town whenever the town desired_ Miss Anna Amory had offered $500 for this library & had asked his assistance & advice_ At her request he had agreed to help her in the selection & purchase of books & he had advised her to transfer the library to the town if possible which she was very willing to do. In the meantime she had secured a committee of 20 young ladies who would take charge of the library for the present.

Mr Nourse reported that he had written to several of the towns from which no certificates had yet been received

Mr Crindorf chairman of the trustees of Boxborough was invited to tell the commission something about his library - He stated that the people were much interested in it already & that the most popular books seemed to be those written for young people which were in demand by young & old alike - He mentioned as especially popular books of travel," Old Times in the Colony" & "Boots & Saddles" He stated that the Grange had given $25 to the library & that money had been raised by an entertainment, so that the trustees had now about $70 to expend. They had made out a list of books & after various enquiries had found that they could not purchase the books any where for themselves as cheaply as the commission could purchase for them. He therefore asked the chairman to buy their books making any changes in their list which he thought desirable.

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Agawam

Adjourned.

E P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met Thursday Sept 17 at 11 A.M.
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Present
Mr Bourne Mr Green Miss Sohier

Letters from a number of towns were read & informal reports made by the chairman all showing that the libraries in the different towns were highly appreciated & growing in popularity —

It was voted to order 500 copies of Mr Bourne's article in the New England magazine for distribution to the public libraries & for other uses. The details were left to the chairman.

The following towns had sent official notification of their acceptance of the act of 1890

Alford Aug 28 Southwick Sept 4
Blandford Sept 1
Hampden Sept 1
1 Books had been sent to
Tyngsham —

Adjourned E P Sohier Secretary

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Oct 15th at 11.15 A M

Mr Tillinghast in the chair -

Present

Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

Letters were read from several towns which had already received books telling of increased interest & steadily increasing number of applicants for books -

The chairman reported that the following towns had sent official notice of their acceptance of the Act of 1890 -

Charlemont Sept 29

~~Edgar~~ Edgartown Oct 5th -

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Nov 19th at 11.15 A. M. —

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Present. Mr Green. Mr Nourse. Miss Tickner Miss Sohier

Letters from several towns were read & details concerning different libraries discussed —

It was voted to send to the new libraries printed questions as well as letters of enquiry in order to obtain statistics for the annual report.

The chairman reported that the following towns had accepted the Act of 1890.

Alford Aug 28

Egremont Oct 26

The chairman also reported that books had been sent to

Blandford

Southwick

Sheffield —

It was also reported by the secretary that Mrs S. D. Warren daughter of a former minister of the town of Blandford had given $ 50 to be expended for the benefit of

the Blandford library & had also sent thro the commission a number of books.

Mrs Roger Wolcott a descendant of Col Prescott for whom the town of Prescott was named had also given through the commission $25 with which 50 volumes had been purchased & sent to the Town of Prescott. The chairman of the Prescott trustees had written that the books were in such demand that a week after they were placed in the library almost every volume was absent from the shelves.

Adjourned

E P. Sohier

Secretary

1891.

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Dec 17th at 11. 15

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Present

Mr Green Miss Tickner Miss Sohier

Details concerning the annual report were discussed & it was voted to leave all questions concerning its form to the chairman, & that the members of the commission should each render him such assistance as he should request in securing information from different towns

The chairman reported that books had been sent to.

Charlemont &

Edgartown —

and that those for Alford had been ordered & partly collected leaving only two towns unsupplied — Egremont & Richmond.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Sec'y

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Jan 21st at 11.15 A M –

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Miss Tickenor — Mr Nourse
Mr Green — Miss Sohier

The chairman read the annual report which he had prepared as far as he was able. Owing to illness & other causes there had been much delay in the returns from the towns

It was voted that the chairman should be authorized to sign the names of the members of the commission to the report & to present it to the legislature as the report of the commission

The report showed that the following 36 towns had accepted the act of 1890 & had complied with all the requirements of the law.

Agawam –
Alford

Berlin
Blandford
Bourne
Boxborough
Charlemont
Chilmark
Edgartown
Egremont
Falmouth
Goshen
Granby
Greenwich
Hamilton
Hampden
Leverett
Mashpee
Monterey
Mt Washington
New Ashford
Otis
Pelham
Peru
Plympton
Plainfield
Prescott
Richmond
Rowley
Sandwich
Sheffield
Southwick
Tyringham
Westport
West Stockbridge
Windsor

adjourned

The Commission met Thursday Feb. 7 1892
at the State House

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green Mr Howe Miss Eldenor Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that he had sent circulars to the ministers, doctors, lawyers and other leading citizens in the towns which has not yet established libraries and had written a number of personal letters. The other members of the commission reported that they had written letters to a number of towns suggesting that an article should be inserted in the warrant for the next town meeting to see if the town would accept the offer of the State

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday March 18th 1892

Mr Pillsbury in the Chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Howse Miss Pickmor Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that a number of towns had taken action upon the question of establishing a library – Several had apparently accepted the Act but no certificates had as yet been received
Letters from several towns were read

Adjourned
E. P Sohier
Secretary

1892

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday April 21st 1892

Mr Billings last in the Chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Rourse Mess - Tickenor Mess Sohier

The Chairman reported that certificates had been received from
Avon dated March 21st
Leyden " April 12th
Oakham " April 13th
Holland " " 14
Wilbraham " " 16

The selection of books for Avon was referred to Mess Tickenor who had conducted the correspondence with that town.

Letters from several towns were read

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House Thursday May 19th 1892

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Bourne Miss Tickner Miss Sohier

The Chairman reported in detail on the progress of the work of the commission

Certificates of the acceptance of the act had been received from

Dana	dated	May 4
Foxboro	"	April 23
Holland	"	" 25
Medway	"	May 2
Shelburne	"	" 6
Wrentham	"	" 31

Books had been sent to

Leyden	May 14
Medway	" 14
Holland	" 9

Adjourned

A B Sohier

Secretary

The commission met at the State House Thursday June 16th 1892

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Bourne Miss Pickmor Miss Sohier

The chairman read letters from several towns & reported that certificates had been received —

Lynnfield dated June 8th
Savoy " " 6th
Wrentham " May 31

Books had been sent to —

Avon June 8
Holland May 28
Lynnfield June 9
Oakham May 31
Wilbraham " 21
Wrentham June 1.

Adjourned
E P Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday July 15 1892
Mr Billingham in the Chair
Present. Mr Green Mr Towne Asst Sec.

The chairman read letters from several towns and reported in detail concerning the work of the Commission - A certificate had been received from
Essex dated June 16
Books had been sent to.
Leana July 2nd
Savoy June 25
Shelburne July 2

Adjourned
E. P Foster
Secretary

1892

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Aug. 18th 1892.

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present Mr Howe Miss Sohier —

It was voted to send out cards of enquiry to all the libraries of the state in order to secure information for use in the annual report and that all details be left to the discretion of the chairman

It was voted to authorize the chairman to purchase copies of Sargents catalogues of books for young people for the use of the commission and of the different libraries in such manner as the chairman should decide.

Books had been sent to Gosnold Aug 10 & Essex Aug 2

The chairman read correspondence from various towns

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Sept 15th 1892

Present

Mr Isbingham in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Thos Solmer

The chairman read letters from several towns and reported on the progress of the work of the commission since the last meeting —

Adjourned

E V Solmer

Secretary

1892

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Oct 20th 1892

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Course
Miss Dickenor
Miss Sohier.

The Chairman reported that Coln min had accepted the Act. & sent in certificate dated Oct 7. Also that Dr Peckham had accepted the act.

Correspondence with different towns was assigned

Hardwick to Mr Green
Gay Head " Miss Dickenor
Stowe " Mr Course
Washington " Miss Sohier

The Chairman stated Miss Sohier had been appointed a member of the commission and Miss Sohier stated that she had duly qualified.

Adjourned

E L Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Nov 27 1873

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Mr Green
Mr Howard
Mr Pickenor
Mr Sohier.

The chairman read a list of 34 towns which appeared to be entitled to receive books under the act of 1872 by the Valuation of May 1871

The chairman reported that Whately had accepted the act and that books had been sent to Colrain & Freetown during the month.

Correspondence was read for several towns

Adjourned

E P. Sohier
Secretary

1892

The commission met at the State House Dec 15 1892.

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Pickenor
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that Kardwick had accepted the act of 1890 and that its certificate was dated Nov 2.

The members of the commission were requested to interest the following towns by correspondence

Auburn was assigned to Mr Green
Gay Head " " " Miss Pickenor
Dudley " " " Mr Tillinghast
Truro " " " Miss Sohier

Adjourned
E P Sohier
Sec'y

1893

The Commission met at the State House Jan 19 1893

Present

Mr Illingham in the Chair

Mr Green

Mr House

Miss Schier

The chairman reported that Bolton, Whately and New Braintree had accepted the act of 1892 and that books for Bolton had been selected and were now ready to be sent and that books for Whately were being selected

The chairman read the report which had been prepared for the legislature

Voted That the chairman be instructed to sign the names of the members of the Commission to the report and present it to the legislature.

During the year the following towns had accepted the act of 1890 and have received books from the Commission

Avon Lynnfield

Colrain	Medway
Dana	Oakham
Essex	Savoy
Freetown	Shelburne
Goshen	Wilbraham (accepted act in 1891)
Holland	Tolland
Leyden	Wrentham

The towns of Huntington, Pawlet and South Hadley have accepted the act but have not taken all the necessary steps to secure the gift of books from the State

Since the commission was established 52 towns have received books under the act of 1890

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Feb 16th 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Miss Tickner
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that certificates had been received from Rutland and Orleans.

The selection of books for Rutland was assigned to Mr Nourse.

correspondence with Auburn was assigned to Mr Green who was asked to undertake the selection of books in case the town accepted the act.

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Bolton & Whately during the month

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House March 16th 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Towne
Miss Pickenor
Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that the following towns seemed to have accepted the act of 1892 but that official information had not yet been received from all of them

Orleans certificate received
Ashby " "
New Salem " "

Also Sunderland Eastham & Wenham, not having sent certificates —

He reported that Deerfield had accepted the act of 1890 and that Huntington & Hawley had duly elected trustees, both towns having accepted the act before.

Adjourned

E H Sohier
Sec'y

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held April 20th at the State House

Present Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Tickner
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that the following towns appeared to have accepted the act of 1890

Berkley certificate dated April 13
Chelmsford " " " 3rd
Hawley " " " 1st
Deerfield
Granville
Dover.

A letter was read from Bernardston claiming a right to books from the State. No action was taken

Books are being selected for

Ashby by Miss Tickner
Chelmsford " Mr Bourne
Hardwick " Mr Green
Huntingdon " Miss Sohier
Rutland " Mr Bourne

Books had been sent to New Salem April 15

adjourned E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the commission was held at the State House Thursday May 23rd " 1893

Present. Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green

Mr Howard

Miss Tickenor

Miss Schier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Ashby May 17

Chelmsford " 6

Dunstable " 22

Hardwick " 11

Hawley " 23

Health " 10

Huntington " 1

Rochester " 22

Wenham " 16

The following towns have accepted the Act

Erving certificate dated March 13 —

Middlefield

The selection of books for Berkley was assigned to Mr Howard.

Adjourned

C H Schier

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Monday June 16 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Sohier —

The chairman read correspondence from several towns —

The question of furnishing books to Bernardston was further considered. There seemed serious question whether the library was one which was entitled to aid from the State under a strict construction of the law. No definite action was taken

Adjourned

C. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House July 20 1873

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair.

Mr Nourse

Miss Sohier

The chairman read correspondence from several towns & reported that books had been sent to

Auburn July 14

Orleans

Warwick July 18

The chairman reported that a certificate had been received from Middlefield dated July 8

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the commission was held at the State House Thursday Aug 17th 1873.

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Mr Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Deerfield July 28
Eastham Aug 11
Middlefield Aug 17

Informal reports from several towns were made.

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

1893

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Thursday Sept 21st 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Sohier

The chairman read letters from several towns and reported that books had been sent to

Ewing Aug 22

The chairman also reported that the certificate had been received from Lanesboro dated Aug 24

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Oct 19th 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast, in the chair, Miss Pickmor
Mr Green Mr Bourne.

After discussion of various subjects connected with the work of the Commission the list of towns which have accepted the Library Acts during 1893 was received. The towns to which the States bounty has been sent since the September meeting were reported by the Chairman.

Lonsdale books sent Sept 30
New Braintree " " Oct 14

Mr Bourne reported his reappointment to the Commission to date from Oct 12. He accepted the trust and was qualified.—

"Attest Henry S. Bourne
for the Secretary"

The regular monthly meeting of the commission was held at the State House November 10th 1893.

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair.

Mr Green Mr Towne Mr Nelson Mr Sohier

The chairman gave a general review of the work during the year.

There was a full discussion of the subject of the annual report - and the report was finally referred to the chairman with full powers.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary.

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Commission was held Thursday Dec 21 1893

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair.
Mr Green
Mr Towne
Miss Dickenor
Miss Sohier

The chairman reviewed the work of the year and the Annual report was discussed in detail. It was stated that under the new law the report must be presented earlier than usual. It was voted that the chairman should be authorized to add such details as he deemed advisable to the Annual report and to sign the names of the members of the Commission to the report and transmit it to the Legislature

During the year the following towns have been supplied with books under Chap. 347 of the Act of 1890.

Berkley
Chelmsford
Deerfield
Hardwick
Hawley
Heath
Huntingdon
Wellfleet.

The towns of Huntingdon Hawley & Hardwick accepted the act in 1892 but did not complete the necessary details until 1893.

The towns of Dover and Granville have accepted the act but have not yet completed the action necessary to receive books from the State

Granville has not chosen its trustees

Dover has not as yet a suitable room for its books.

The chairman stated that sixty libraries had now been established with the assistance of the State under the act of 1890 —

Under the law of 1892 books have been supplied to

Ashby	Lanesboro	
Auburn	Middlefield	
Bolton	New Braintree	Sunderland
Dunstable	New Salem	Tyngsboro
Eastham	Orleans	Warwick
Erving	Rochester	Whately
Gill	Rutland	Wenham.

Adjourned

E. P. Soliér

Secretary

1894

The regular meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Jan 18th 1894.

present Mr Tilling hast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Pickenor
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that the following towns have accepted the Act of 1892

Burlington certificate dated Dec 21
Rowe " " Jan 12

enquiries had also been received from Wendall and arrangement had been made to insert an article in the warrant for the next town meeting.

Correspondence with Dudley & Dartmouth was assigned to Mr Green. Wendall & Plancock to Mr Bourne - Sekonk to Miss Pickenor & several other towns to the chairman & secretary

The chairman reported that the Womans Education Association through Miss Mary Morison had offered to supply a few of the smaller towns with lending libraries—

On motion of Mr Hourse it was voted that the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts has heard with much pleasure the proposition of the Woman's Education Association to furnish reading matter to some of the poorer towns of the Commonwealth & that it will gladly & every aid in its power to this praiseworthy enterprise"

Arrangements with the Woman's Education Association to cooperate in their work were referred to the Chairman & this Solicitor with full powers

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

The regular monthly Meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Feb 15th 1894

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green

Miss Tickenor

Miss Sohier

The chairman read a letter from Somerset stating that efforts would be made to secure the acceptance of the act.

Mr Green reported that he had written to several persons in Dudley but that there seemed to be many difficulties. One of the villages wished to use the Webster Library

Mr Green also reported on Dartmouth that his efforts had not been successful but that he would continue them through his relatives

Miss Tickenor read a letter from the town clerk of Hancock who was doubtful of success, but sent addresses.

Enquiries from Williamsburg were reported by the chairman

Adjourned

W P Sohier Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House March 15. 1894

Present Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green, Mr Towne Miss Tilden Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that the following towns had accepted the act of 1890 -

Truro

Hancock

Wendall.

The following towns have accepted the act of 1892

Boylston

Chesterfield

Paxton

Miss Tilden was requested to take charge of the selection of books for Hancock, Mr Green for Boylston Mr Towne for Wendall.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House April 26th 1894

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr Howe Miss Tickenor Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that 12 towns had accepted the act of 1890

Bellingham	certificate dated ~~April 14~~
Chester	" April 14
Leighton	
Florida	March 31
Dover	
Granville	
Hancock	
Monroe	April 5
Sandisfield	
Shutesbury	
Truro	Feb 12
Wendall	

Seven Towns have accepted the Act of 1892

Bernardston	
Bayleton	certificate dated Feb 24

Burlington certificate dated Dec 21
Chesterfield "
Paxton " " April 7
Rockport " " " 17
Rowe " " Jan 12

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Monro April 23rd
Jaura " 4
Wendall " 14

Letters from several towns were read

Adjourned

E P Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met Thursday May 7 1891
at the State House

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Miss Tecknor
Miss Sohier.

The Chairman reported that two additional towns had accepted the Act of 1890

Conway ~~certificate dated~~
West Newbury —

A certificate from Granby had been received dated May 9
Books had been sent to Rockport May 12

Letters were read & informal reports received from several towns

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House June 21 1894

Present Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green Mr Bowen Miss Pickenor Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that certificates had been received from

Leighton dated June 9
Hancock " " 4
Shutesbury " " 11

Books had been sent to the following towns

Florida May 18
Granville June 11
Hancock " 13.
Partton " 3

Letters were read from several towns

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House July 19 1894

Present

Mr Sellinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr House Miss Sohier

Reports were made upon several towns & letters read.

The chairman stated that a certificate had been received from Secretary dated July 11 — & that books had been sent to

Chester July 11 —

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Aug 16 1894

Present

Mr Sellinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier.

The chairman gave a report of the condition of the work by which it appeared that thirteen towns had accepted the act of 1890 since the beginning of the year and eight towns had accepted the act of 1892.

The Chairman reported that books were sent to Chester July 11 & that Mr Nourse was in charge of the selection of books for Courtenay & a list had been prepared —

Adjourned

E A Sohier

Secretary

1894

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House Sept 27th 1894

Present

Mr Tillinghast, in the chair. Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Shutesbury Sept 6
Conway " 22.

and that books were being selected for West Newbury.
The chairman reported on the present ~~condition~~ of the work of the Commission – The towns which had accepted the Act of 1890 were as follows

	Certificate	Books sent
Bellingham	~~April~~	
Chester	April 14	July 11
Leighton	June 7	
Lower		
Florida "	March 31	May 28
Granville	May 8	June 11
Hancock	June 4	June 13
Monroe	April 5	April 23
Sandisfield	May 5	
Shutesbury	June 11	Sept 6

	Certificate	Books Sent
Truro	Feb 12	April 4
Wendall	March 15	April 14
West Newbury.		
Conway.		Sept 22

Under the Act of 1892

Bernardston		
Boylston	Feb 24	
Burlington	Dec 21	
Chesterfield		Sept 22
Conway.		Sept 22
Paxton	April 7	June 3
Rockport	April 17	May 12
Rowe	Jan 12	

Mr. Green reported that he had been to South Dartmouth and thinks there is hope of a library there with branches — The selection of books for Chesterfield was assigned to Mr Green

Miss Sonier tendered her resignation as secretary of the Commission as she was to be in Europe during the winter — The Commission refused to accept her resignation and it was voted that Mr Bourne should act as Secretary during Miss Sonier's absence.

Announced. E. P. Sonier Secretary

October 18. 1894.

Regular monthly meeting of the Commission
Present. Miss Tucker and Messrs Tillinghast Green
and House. Miss Sohier absent in Europe

A discussion of sundry schemes for enlarging
the scope of the Commission's work, and without
definite action.

The Chairman reported that no new libraries have
been established during the month past, but that
a list of books for the town of Dighton has been
submitted. The case of the town of Rehoboth
was given to [illegible]

Adjourned

Henry S. House
Secy. pro. tem.

November 22 1894

Regular monthly meeting of the F. P. L. C.
Present Mr Tillinghast and Mr Norris. Miss
Ticknor sent notice of her inability to meet
the Commission because of illness, and Mr
Green failed to receive notice of the meeting
until too late to attend. No quorum being
present no business for record was transacted.

Attest

Henry L. Norris
Secy pro tem

The meetings of the Commission from this date
were held in the Librarian's Room in the new
part of the State House.

December 20. 1894

Present: The chairman, Miss Ticknor, Mr Green Mr Nourse.

The chairman reported that Brighton has been supplied with $100 worth of books sent Nov. 14; West Newbury do. sent Oct. 9; Dover, do. sent Nov. 5; Burlington do. Nov. 12; Certificates of acceptance of the library law in due form are received from:- Bellingham, dated December 5; Carlisle, Nov. 10; Millis, Dec. 15. Bellingham was assigned to Mr Nourse, Millis to Miss Ticknor and Carlisle to Mr Green.

Mr Green presented in writing some suggestions relating to aid which he proposed should be furnished to special students and inquirers in the towns where libraries have been founded by the commission. These after slight amendment were referred to the chairman for incorporation with the annual report.

Attest

Henry S. Nourse

Secy. pro. tem

January 17. 1895

Regular monthly meeting of the Commission
Present: Mr Tillinghast. Asst Treasurer Mr Green.
Mr Soule.

A review of the Massachusetts towns without free
public libraries. January 1, 1895. shows that the
Commissioners have supplied 13 towns with books
to found such libraries during the past year, that
Stow has established a library without State aid.
and that, including the new town of East Long-
meadow, 32 towns are now without free public
libraries. Three towns were assigned to the
members of the Commission present for inves-
tigation and correspondence.

Adjourned to January 30. at usual hour
and place.

Attest.
Henry S. Soule
Sec. pro. tem.

January 20. 1895.

A special meeting of the Commission in the Librarian's Room at the State House
Present all the members of the board except Miss Tobin absent in Europe.

The Chairman presented his report for the past year, which was discussed in detail. It was then voted that the report be accepted as the annual report of the Commission, and that the Chairman be authorized to append thereto the names of the members of the Commission and to transmit it to the legislature.

Adjourned.

Henry S. Nourse
Sec. B. P. L.

February 21. 1895.

Regular monthly meeting of the Commission.
Present all members of the Board except Mrs. [illegible]
The members present reported severally upon their correspondence with various towns lacking free public libraries. The correspondence thus far seems not very encouraging for the aims of the Commission.
After varied discussion of the situation in sundry backward towns, and reviewing the proof of the annual report to the Legislature the Commission adjourned.

Attest.
Henry S. Nourse
Secy. pro. tem.

March 21. 1895

Regular monthly meeting of the Commission.
Present: the Chairman, Miss Tickner, Mr Green
Mr Nourse

The Chairman reported that Marshfield
Montgomery and Russell of Class 5. and
Southampton of Class 3. have accepted the
Library Act. Mr Nourse furnished a list of
books to be sent Montgomery. Letters were read
from Southwick. Deerfield. Carver. Norfolk &c
none of which were of large promise.

Final choice of books for the town of Russell was
assigned to Mr Nourse

Adjourned.

Attest

Henry S. Nourse
Sec. pro tem.

April 18. 1895.

Regular monthly meeting of the F. P. L. C. in Librarian's Room at the State House.

Present: All the members of the Commission except Miss Stearns now in Europe.

The chairman reported libraries founded in Marshfield, books sent April 9; in Montgomery, books sent April 13; in Russell, books sent April 15. Also under Act of 1872. books were sent to Carlisle March 21, and under Special Act of 1894, to Bernardston on March 14.

It is reported that the following towns have accepted the Library Act of 1890.

Carver April 8 Salisbury

Longmeadow Sandisfield

The Commission after some discussion adjourned

Attest

Henry S. Nourse

Secy. pro tem

Boston May 16. 1895.

Regular monthly meeting of the F. P. L. Commission held in Librarian's Room, State House.

Present: the Chairman, Miss Tickner, Mr Green, Mr Nourse.

The Chairman announced the acceptance of the Act of 1890 by Dartmouth, April. 20. and that the books were furnished Salisbury May 15. It was also reported that a movement is on foot to make the Westfield Athenaeum free to the public.

Books have been bought for Standish, supplementary to the library therein established by the Commission.

A discussion ensued regarding "travelling libraries".

Adjourned

Nancy S. Nourse

Secy pro tem

Boston June 20. 1895.

Regular monthly meeting of the commission.
Present Messrs Tillinghast. Green and Nourse.

Mr Green presented a list of books for Dartmouth.
The chairman reported that $100 worth of books
were sent to Sandisfield June 11.

There followed a discussion of the advantages
furnished the common schools by the free library
the increased cost of repairs & rebinding occasioned
by the carelessness of book-borrowers &c &c.

Approved
Henry S. Nourse
Secy pro tem

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at the State House July 18 1895

Present Mr Tillinghast in the chair —

Mr Green. Mr House Miss Sohier —

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Dartmouth July 17

The list of towns still unprovided with libraries was read & correspondence with such towns was undertaken.

Hadley by Mr Tillinghast

Leracut " " "

Dudley " Mr Green

Newbury " Miss Sohier

Norwell " Mr House

Seekonk " " "

The circular asking information of libraries was discussed and the final arrangement was left to the chairmen —

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met Thursday Aug 15 1895
at the State House.

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green Mr House Miss Sohier

Reports were made upon towns which are still without libraries

After some discussion it was voted to issue a new circular to be used in towns where there are no libraries. The arrangement of the circular was left to the chairman with full powers.

The circular asking for information from existing libraries and the best method of utilizing the returns were also discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Sept. 19th 1895
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Greene
Mr Howe
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that he had not yet issued the circular for towns without libraries & the contents of such circular were further considered.

The situation in a number of towns was discussed

Adjourned

E. P Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Oct 24 at 10.30

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green — Miss Tickenor
Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that he had received reports from a number of libraries but that he feared there would be much delay in some of the returns

The situation of the 25 towns which are still without libraries was discussed in detail.

The chairman submitted a proof of the new circular.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Nov 21. 1895

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green
Mr Monroe
Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that books had been sent to
Carver Nov 12

The chairman reported that answers to the circular asking information were coming back fairly well.

The Situation of the towns without libraries was discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Dec 19th 1895

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green
Mr Bourne
Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that the books for Longmeadow had been selected & were ready to send.

An engniry as to the offer of the State had been received from Longmeadow.

Mr Green reported that he had received lists from Brookline & would select the books

Several other towns were discussed

It was voted that the chairman should prepare the annual report and that it should include some mention of the work of the Woman's Education Association whose Travelling Libraries had been of great benefit to the little towns to which they had been sent

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Secretary

1896

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Jan 16th 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Ticknor
Mr Norris	Miss Sohier

The chairman read the annual report
It was voted that the chairman be author-
-ized to sign the names of the members
of the Commission to the report & to
add such further statistics thereto as he
should deem advisable -

Letters were read from Nantucket
and Southampton & the situation
in other towns was discussed -

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday Feb 20th 1896_

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green

Mr Bourne

Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that Roxbury had accepted the act of 1892.

The situation of other towns was discussed in detail & the efforts which members of the commission had made to interest special towns which were still without libraries_

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary.

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday March 19th 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Tickenor
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

A letter was read from Southampton concerning the legality of appropriations by the town to a library charging a fee & only open a few hours in the week for use on the premises. The chairman also read his reply in which he stated that while such slight opportunity for free use of books might comply with the letter of the law, it was certainly contrary to its spirit & that when a town appropriated money to any library, all the citizens in the town should receive the benefit. A second letter from Southampton was read which stated that the town had refused to elect trustees or to make any appropriation for a free library.

The chairman reported that Scituate had voted to appropriate money to the two as-

sociation libraries provided they would make the libraries free & that one of the two libraries would probably accept the offer – The probable action of the other was not yet known

The chairman reported that the following towns had accept the act of 1890 –

Acushnet
East Longmeadow
Hanson
Swansea

Letters were read from several towns

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary –

The Commission met at the State House
Thursday April 16 1896

Present

Mr Tilling chosen in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Tickenor
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

Mr Nourse stated that Brimfield had accepted the Act of 1892.—

A letter was read from East Longmeadow as to the acceptance of the Act & a letter from Swansea as to branches —

The situation in other towns was discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met Thursday May 21st 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Dickenor
Mr House	Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that the following towns had accepted the Act of 1890.

Acushnet	date of certificate	March 24. 1896 books sent May 20.
East Longmeadow	"	April 13
Hanson		
Swansea		

He also reported that books had been sent under the law of 1892 to

Boylston	on	May 18
Royalston	"	April 29 —

& that Brimfield had accept the Act on April 6 —

A special act of the legislature had been passed in favor of Peru where the library had been burned but the commission had not been notified that the town was provided with a place for its new library —

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Sec't —

The Commission met June 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Nourse

Mr Green

Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that the town of Wales appeared to have accepted the act. Dudley had appropriated $100 for a free library, but it seemed doubtful whether it had complied with the other provisions of the act.

Hanson had sent a certificate dated June 15

Details concerning other towns were discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met July 16th 1896
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair
Present Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The Chairman stated that Dudley had appropriated $100 for a library but did not appear to have elected trustees as required by law. The subject had been referred to the School Committee & he had as yet no very definite information as to exactly what had taken place in the town meeting, or as to the present situation — Mr Green undertook to make enquiries as to Dudley.

The chairman stated that the trustees of Easthampton had made enquiries as to making the library free —

The situation in other towns was discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met August 20th 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Mrs Sohier —

Mr Nourse reported that he had received a list of books from Brimfield

Mr Green stated that the information which he had received from Dudley was quite indefinite & that he had written to ask for a copy of the records.

The situation in other towns was discussed & also the importance of making public libraries available for young people & children.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary.

The Commission met Sept 17th 1896

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that lists of the books now owned by Hanson had been received. The selection of the books to be given by the State was assigned to Mr Nourse

Mr Green reported that he had received no additional information from Dudley

A letter had been received from Peru stating that the library was established in the town hall and that the trustees were ready to receive the books to be given by the State under the act of 1896 to replace the library which had been burned. It was voted to send the books

Other details concerning different towns were discussed

Adjourned

E P Sohier

Secretary

1896

The Commission met Oct 15th at 10.30 at the State House

Present

Mr Dillingham in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

It was voted that in testimony to the great loss to the Commission in the death of Miss Ticknor suitable resolutions should be prepared by the chairman to be presented at the next meeting in order that they should be entered upon the records of the Commission & printed in the annual report.

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

East Longmeadow

Brimfield

A certificate of the acceptance of the act had been received from

Swansea

The selection of books was referred to Mr Nourse

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Secretary

The Commission met Nov 19th at the State House

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green	Miss Amory
Mr Bourne	Miss Sohier —

Miss Anna Sears Amory having been appointed by the Governor & Council a member of the Commission for the full term of five years was present for the first time.

The Chairman submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

Anna Eliot Ticknor

Miss Anna Eliot Ticknor was appointed by Governor Brackett, one of the original members of the Free Public Library Commission to serve for one year from October 22 1890; and Oct 22 1891 she was reappointed by Governor Russell for the full term of five years. Miss Ticknor died Oct 5th 1896, at Newport, Rhode Island, which had been her summer home for many years.

She was a daughter of George Ticknor, the

eminent professor and literary historian, who was largely instrumental in establishing the broad lines upon which the Public Library of the City of Boston was founded. The mature years of Miss Ticknor's life for nearly a quarter of a century were largely given to the work of the "Society to Encourage Studies at Home", which she founded in 1873, for the purpose of improving the character, & increasing the resources of the home, a work in which she was actively engaged until her death. Her antecedents and experience naturally fitted her for the work of this Commission - the familiarity with the intellectual possibilities of the home, and the best methods & means of stimulating and meeting them; her appreciation of the free public library as an educational force, together with her experimental knowledge of the practical results that can be accomplished by simple and direct methods, made her judgment of especial value in outlining & crystallizing the work of the Commission. She was ever ready to give to its work all the time and strength that her other duties and her health permitted. Her surviving associates

alone can fully realize how much the Commonwealth suffers by the loss of her intelligent and practical interest, wise judgment and sympathetic effort in the cause this Commission was established to promote.

The annual report was discussed in detail—
Mr Green was requested to prepare some material concerning the use of free libraries by young people—
Mr Nourse was asked to collect & arrange information concerning work in other States.
Miss Sohier was requested to obtain information concerning the travelling libraries under the charge of the Woman's Education Association—
The remainder of the report was left to the chairman

Adjourned.

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

1896

The Commission met at the State House Dec 17

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green	Miss Amory
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Penn	Nov 18
Hanson	" 25
Swansea	" 30

The chairman stated that Wales had accepted the act & selected a place for its library, but that the trustees had been inadvertently elected without a ballot & that another town meeting would be necessary in order to comply with the law.

Mr Green stated that he had written to Somerset but had received no reply.

The chairman read to the board a letters he had written to the trustees of the Wendell library & to Mr H. L Hoyt in reference to a local controversy. The action of the chairman was approved & his advice heartily endorsed.

It was reported that an attempt was being made at South Hadley Falls to raise money to open a reading room. It was hoped a free library might result

Parts of the annual report were read & discussed.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

1897

The Commission met Jan 21st 1897 at the State House

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green	Miss Amory
Mr Nourse	Miss Sohier

The chairman read the annual report of the commission - After discussion of certain details it was adopted as amended.

It was voted that the chairman be authorized to sign the names of the members of the commission to the report & to add thereto such further Statistics as he should deem advisable -

Several letters were read & questions of library administration were discussed.

It was voted to authorize the chairman to purchase such number of Sargents Catalogues of Books for the Young as he should consider desirable in connection with the advisory work of the Commission

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary -

The Commission met Feb 28th 1897 at the State House

Present
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that he had asked Mr Richmond the representative from North Adams to endeavor to interest Clarksburg in the establishment of a library - He had also some encouragement from Dennis where the board of one of the association libraries seemed inclined to co-operate in the work -

The details of the prospects in other towns was informally discussed -

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

The Commission met Thursday March 18th 1897
Mr Tilinghast in the chair.
Present

Mr Green — Miss Among
Mr Towne — Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that Amesbury had accepted the Act & taken all necessary steps to secure the gift from the State — & that the trustees proposed to prepare a list of books —

Dennis had accepted the act & elected trustees The vote in favor of the library stood 89 to 24 —

South Hadley had elected trustees & appropriated $500 —

Somerset appeared to have accepted the act.

Easthampton has voted $1000 for the library if it be made free —

Wales had accepted the act & will probably elect trustees at the April meeting

The Wendale report gives a very satisfactory statement as to the condition of the library which appears to give general satisfaction

The need of better arrangements for some of the work was discussed & a letter from the Executive Clerk concerning a room for the use of the Commission was laid upon the table - The chairman undertook to obtain ~~th~~through the Sergeant at Arms the temporary use of a room -

It was voted to discuss at the next meeting the general work of the Commission

Adjourned

E B Solmer

Secretary

The Commission met at the State House Thursday April 15th at 10 30.

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green — Miss Amory
Mr Bourne — Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that no certificate had yet been received from Dudley or Somerset, but that the Somerset Library Association had voted to give its books to the town.

Mr Green reported that trustees had been elected at Dudley & that they had received the nomination from both parties - The town had appropriated $200 -

The general work of the board was discussed, especially its advisory duties - Several suggestions were made as to possible aid in the selection of books & it was voted to endeavor to obtain a copy of the list of books approved & rejected by the readers for the Boston Library

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Secretary

The Commission met May 20th 1897

Regular monthly meeting of the board.

Present

Mr Tillinghast Miss Amory, Mr Green Mr Nourse.

Mr Nourse acted as secretary in the absence of Miss Sohier.

The time of the meeting was chiefly spent in discussion upon library conditions in the towns that have recently accepted the library act and upon Miss Amory's visits to the libraries in the smaller & impecunious towns—

Adjourned

Henry S Nourse
Sec'y pro tem.

June 17th 1897 State House.

Regular Monthly meeting of the Commission
Present.

Mr Tilinghast in the chair
Miss Amory Mr Green Mr Towne

Miss Cole being absent from the State.
Mr Towne acted as secretary.

Miss Amory reported from notes taken at the times of her visits an interesting account of the conditions of several small libraries - Her experience & comments were so suggestive that the usual hour of adjournment passed before half of her notes had been read -

Adjourned
Henry S. Towne
Sec'y pro tem

1897

The Commission met July 15th 1897 at the State House -

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Wales —

The criticisms of the committee of the Woman's Education Association of new works of fiction were examined & the extent to which they could be utilized by the Commission was discussed —

The general work of the Commission was considered & the question of the annual report was discussed, but no action was taken

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met August 19 1897

Present

Mr Tilling host in the Chair

Miss Amory

Mr Green

Mr Nourse

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Amesbury.

A discussion ensued concerning the propriety of making an elaborate report of the Commission but no action was taken although such a publication was unanimously favored

Adjourned

"H. S. Nourse

Secretary pro tem

The Commission met Sept 16th 1897

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Mr Green
Mr Nourse
Miss Sohier -

The chairman reported that a certificate had been received from South Hadley & that the town had provided a reading room & hoped to start with 2000 books -

Mr Green gave an account of a recent meeting of the Library Club at which the question of a compulsory tax for the support of libraries was discussed. He stated that he had opposed the proposition of behalf of the commission - as contrary to the spirit of Massachusetts & wholly unnecessary - It was the uncommons opinion of the Commission that the towns would not be aided by any compulsory law.

The general work of the Commission was discussed.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Secretary

1897

The Commission met Thursday Oct 14th

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

A letter was read from Miss Amory stating that she was in the Western part of the State visiting some of the smaller libraries — The towns still without libraries were considered — Correspondence with some of these towns was assigned as follows —

Westwood	to	Mr Tillinghast
Lakeville	"	" "
Cheshire	"	" "
Dracut	"	Mr Nourse
New Marlborough	"	Miss Sohier
Hadley		Mr Tillinghast Mr Green — Mr Nourse

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met Thursday Nov 18

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green — Miss Amory

Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to South Hadley

The possibilities in several towns were discussed. Miss Amory undertook to ascertain the situation in Washington by personal enquiry on the spot. & report at the next meeting —

It was reported that the new town of Westwood had already an Association library which was free —

Miss Amory read an account of her visits to several towns —

Correspondence with Seekonk was assigned to Mr Nourse. Adjourned

E R Sohier

Secretary

1897

The Commission met Thursday Dec 16th

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The subject of the annual report was considered in detail - & the chairman was requested to prepare the general report & Mr Green to write some helpful suggestions to libraries on the best methods of assisting library & School work by special exhibitions of photographs & illustrations -

The situation in Hadley was discussed & referred specially to Mr Green -

The list of towns still without libraries was considered -

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

1898

The Commission met Thursday Jan 20th at 10.30.

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Mr Greene — Miss Amory

Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier —

The Chairman submitted the annual report which was approved by the Commission

Mr Green read a paper which he had prepared upon the subject of special exhibitions in libraries & the decision as to the form in which it should be printed was referred to the chairman & Mr Green with full powers —

The chairman reported that the Association library in Brewster had been made free

Mr Green was asked to endeavor to secure some action in Hadley at the next town meeting

The remaining towns without libraries were considered in detail —

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

1898

The Commission met Thursday Feb 17th

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green — Miss Amory

Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier

The situation in the ten towns without libraries was considered

Mr Green reported that Mr John H Jewett of Worcester would endeavor to have the article put in the warrant in Hadley this year

Mr Tillinghast hope to interest the representative from Lakeville

Mr Green stated that he had written to Mr Norwell about making the library free in Norwell

Some encouragement as to Clarksburg was reported due to the efforts of Mrs Chandler — There appeared to be no place in the towns which could serve all parts but it seemed possible to arrange for branches in the schools or near them — The four walls in the town run from North Adams to Vermont — there are no cross roads available in winter

Adjourned — E. P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met Thursday March 17

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Amory
Mr Rourse	Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that Seekonk had accepted the Act & voted to establish a town library. There is already an association library in one corner of the town. Whether this can be secured as an addition to the town library or as a branch of the town library is not yet known.

Mr Green stated that he had heard nothing from either Hadley or Norwell.

Miss Amory read a report of her visits to several towns — In most of them she found the libraries in good condition but in Huntingdon almost the entire appropriation was paid as salary to a young librarian, & some changes seemed desirable —

The ladies of Huntingdon were much interested & it was hoped good results would come from their efforts.

Adjourned E. P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met April 21 1898
Present
Mr Tillinghast in the Chair –
Mr Green Mr Bowen Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that Seekonk had accepted the Act but it was not certain that it had complied with all its provisions

Lakeville had voted not to accept the act having at present no suitable place for a library which would be in a central location. It was hoped a school house would be built which could be used.

Clarksburg had accepted the act & elected trustees.

Southampton has made its library free for a year as an experiment

Malden had asked advice as to reading rooms –

Hampden had asked advice – There seemed danger of a saloon within 40 feet of the library

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met Friday 29th 1898

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Mr Green Mr Bourne Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that Williamsburg had accepted the Act & had voted not less than $100 a year

The Haydensville Library was to be turned over to the town

Certificate from Clarksburg dated May 16 had been received

Mr Green was appointed to represent the commission at Northfield June 9

The general work was discussed.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Sec'y

The Commission met June 16th 1898

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Towne Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that he had received requests for advice as to library buildings from Connecticut & Minnesota.

A paper was read by Mr Green on access to shelves.

The General work of the Commission was discussed.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

The Commission met July 21st 1898

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr House Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Clarksburg.

Williamsburg had sent a certificate & the trustees would send later suggestion as to books. Haydensville has given its library to the town.

The annual report was considered.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

The Commission met Aug 18th 1898

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman reported concerning the general work of the Commission —

Mr Nourse stated that he had been unable to obtain reports as yet from many towns —

The reports received were for the most part satisfactory & several of them were discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Sec'y

The Commission met Sept 15th 1898

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair—

Mr Green Mr Towne Miss Sohier—

The two remaining towns without libraries were considered—& the Chairman reported concerning the general work of the Commission

Mr Towne reported concerning the progress of his work upon the report—

Many towns had not yet answered—& the best method to secure returns from several of them was considered—

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met Oct 20 1898

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green — Mrs Weld

Mr Monroe — Miss Sohier

The chairman reported on the general progress of the work -

Several of the small towns were considered & the possibility of making the libraries more useful.

Mrs Weld gave some account of the condition of several towns at the time of her last visits to them & it was decided that such visits by members of the Commission could do much to suggest improvements to inexperienced trustees.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

The regular meeting of the Free Public Library Commission was held Nov 17th 1898
Present Mrs P. A. Tillinghast Green & Nourse -
Miss Sohier being absent from the State & Mrs Weld unable to attend on account of ill health -
Reports were received from the libraries of Haulas Rd Hyde Park - Bradford Winthrop Avon. South Deerfield Salisbury & Springfield - giving descriptions of buildings, new benefactions or other matter for incorporation in the report for 1899.
Sundry new reproductions of photographs of library buildings were exhibited by the chairman & pronounced very satisfactory.
There was a brief discussion upon the unusual library conditions at Rowe & Milton
It was announced that Rutland had laid the foundations for a new town building in which liberal accommodations for the library will be provided
Mr Tillinghast reported no returns to his letters of enquiry sent to Williamsburg & South Hadley which with Auburn are now the only towns from which no reports have been obtained
Adjourned
Henry S. Nourse
Secretary pro tem

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Dec 15th at 16.30

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr Norris Mr Sohier

Mr Green reported that he had had promises from Auburn but no performance —

The Chairman stated that a Com^tee from Middletown R.I. had written to ask advice as to building a library with a legacy of $ 30.000 — by the advice of Mr Seaman who felt he had received valuable assistance from the commission in connection with his library in Flair N.Y.

Lakeville was referred to Mr Tillinghast all attempts to interest that town having been hitherto unsuccessful —

The Annual report was considered The advisability of auxiliary committees to assist trustees was discussed & it was the opinion of the commission that in many towns auxiliary committees

of women might be able to increase the interest in the library & aid in the selection of books — The chairman was asked to confer with the Woman's Education Association on the subject — & ascertain whether any assistance could be obtained from the committee of that Association — It was agreed that great tact & discretion would be required in carrying out such cooperation with the trustees.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Sec'y

1899

The Commission met Jan 19th 1899
Mr Tilling was in the Chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

A report from the Library Committee of the Woman's Education Association was read & discussed. It was voted a portion of it should be incorporated in the report.

The annual report was read & it was voted That the chairman & Mr Nourse be authorized to add such further statistics as they considered desirable & that the chairman be authorized to sign the names of the commission to the report.

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

The Commission met at the State House Thursday Feb 16th

Mr Tillinghast in the chair.

Present

Mr Green Mr Howse Miss Sohier

A letter was received from Mrs Weld stating that she was not well enough to attend the meetings at present - & expressing willingness to resign if the Commission felt a more active member was required. The Commission was unanimous in its opinion that Mrs Weld's resignation was not advisable & that the other members would greatly regret such action

The chairman stated that a list of books desired had been received from Williamsburg.

The 7 towns still without libraries were considered - & the best possible methods of interesting the citizens of each.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Sec'y.

1899

The Commission met March 16 at 10.30

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair.

Mr Green. Mr Nourse Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported that Seekonk had elected trustees & was entitled to receive books.

Phillipston had accepted the Act of 1892.

Wareham had voted an appriation for the Free Library there.

The best use of the copies of the report was considered & it was decided to return as many copies as possible for future needs.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary

The Commission met April 20th 1899
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier.

The chairman reported books had been sent to Williamsburg.

Also that Norfolk was considering accepting the Act of 1892 —

The question of sending books to Phillipston was considered. An extract from the will of Jonathan Phillips establishing the library was read & the Commission decided that under the law Phillipston was entitled to receive books without electing trustees in the usual way inasmuch as the original bequest provided that the Selectmen should serve as trustees.

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Secretary —

1899

The Commission met May 24th

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Monroe Miss Sohier -

A letter was read from Mrs Weld stating that she hoped soon to be well enough to attend the meetings of the Commission.

The chairman reported that Norfolk had accepted the Act of 1892 -

Skekonk had made arrangements to keep its book in three places or exchange.

The chairman reported that about 600 copies of the report had been distributed - that they had been sent to every library mentioned in the report & to quite a number of other libraries

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary.

The Commission met June 25th

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green — Mrs Weld

Mr Course — Miss Scherr

The chairman read a certificate from Norfolk stating that the town had accepted the Act of 1892 "and all subsequent acts"

The list of books requested by Phillipston was read & considered

The chairman stated that about 750 copies of the report had been given out & that he had made a card catalogue of all who had received them in order to avoid duplication.

The towns without libraries were discussed

Lakeville was assigned to Mr Tillinghast

Dracut " " " Mr Green.

New Marlborough has been visited by the library committee of the Woman's Education Association & arrangements have been made to open a small

free library there – in a private house. The Commission has promised to lend 50 books & to send others as donations –

Adjourned
E. P. Solner
Secretary.

The Commission met July 20 1899—

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair—

Mr Green Mr Howe Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Seekonk.

It was reported that books had been sent by the Woman Education Association to New Marlborough and arrangements were expected by which they could be divided & used in the different villages.

The chairman stated that 845 reports had been distributed

Mr Green read a letter from the City librarian of Lowell concerning Dracut

Mr Tillinghast had written to Lakeville

Mr Tillinghast also undertook to make efforts to establish a library in Gay Head

Other towns were discussed without action

Adjourned

E. P Sohier

Secretary.

The Commission met Aug 17th 1899

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr House Miss Scherr

The chairman reported that books for Norfolk had been selected & were ready to send —

No answer had been received from Lakeville but efforts to establish a library there would be continued

61 reports had been sent to foreign libraries & universities

Dalton had sent thanks for advice as to catalogueing & asks advice as to access to shelves.

Rochester asks advice as to purchase of a dictionary

Keene N.H. asks advice as to storing papers in basement.

Fort Worth Texas. asks advice as to a library building

Waltham had consulted as to the needs of that city. A new library is to be built

from a legacy but an appropriation to purchase a site had been voted by the mayor—

Advice was also requested from Lenox Mr Holyoke—

Mr Course stated that New Marlborough had arranged two branches—

On motion of Mr Green it was voted that all action concerning the Paris Exposition be left to the chairman with full powers

Adjourned

E. P. Schier

Sec'y

The Commission met Thursday Sept 21 1899
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Present
Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman stated that the notice in the Review of Reviews had brought a large number of applications for reports —
The number of reports ~~bor~~ heard was 1554 —
Books had been sent to Phillipston
Books had been sent to Norfolk —

Amesbury had purchased land for a library building & asked advice as to its construction

North Adams had asked advice as to answering newspaper criticisms on change of librarian &c,
Clinton is to build a new library & had asked advice through Mr Nourse —
It was voted that the question of issuing a circular to libraries asking for information be left to the chairman

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier Sec'y

1899

The Commission met Thursday Oct 19th 1899 —

Present —

Mr Tillinghast in the chair —

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier —

The records of the last meeting were read & approved
The chairman read a letter from Mrs Weld announcing that she had sent her resignation to the Governor owing to long continued illness which rendered it impossible to undertake work of any kind —

After informal expressions of regret ~~the was voted that~~ following vote was passed.

The members of the Commission desire to express their keen sense of loss at the retirement from the Board by reason of continued ill health of their associate Mrs Anna Amory Weld. Her enthusiastic generous and practical interest in libraries antedated her appointment as a member of the Commission, and indicated her disposition to render voluntary and valuable service. Her attendance at the

meetings of the Commission and visitations and encouragement of the smaller libraries were restricted only by the limitations of strength and health.

Upon full recovery of health the Commission feels certain of her continued sympathy and interest in its work.

The chairman read the circular he had prepared & it was approved.

The chairman reported that the difficulties at North Adams concerning which the advice of the Commission has been requested had been straightened out. The old librarian had resigned & in accordance with the advice of the board, the trustees had decided to make no reply in the newspapers to criticisms of their course, but to wait and if necessary state briefly all necessary facts in their regular annual report.

The general work of the board was discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Secretary.

1899.

The Commission met Nov 16th 1899

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair —

Mr Green — Miss Simpkins

Mr Horse — Miss Soliè —

It was stated that the Governor had re-appointed Mr Green for the term of five years and had appointed Miss Mabel Simpkins to fill the unexpired term left vacant by the resignation of Mrs Weld.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Communications concerning the Paris exhibition were considered. The chairman stated that he had been informed that the entire space assigned for the library exhibit of the United States was 10 ft by 7 ft and that he therefore had ordered one of the reports of the Commission to be suitably bound to send on behalf of the board and doubted the expediency of attempting any thing more. As the whole question of

the arrangements for the Paris Exposition had been already referred to the Chairman with full powers no further action was taken.

The chairman read a number of replies to the circular many of which showed that the progress during the year had been marked —

The question of indexing public documents was discussed — & the chairman stated that on behalf of the State Library he had rendered some assistance in the effort to index the documents on printed cards for library use — He was willing to pay for the printing in order to have the experiment tried, but had not undertaken any responsibility for the work.

The chairman had purchased by request books for Boxborough & Conway. He stated that about 100 letters a month were received by the Commission & that many of them were requests for advice —

Adjourned

E. P. Schurr
Secretary.

1900

The Commission met Thursday Dec 21st 1900 at the State House—

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green — Miss Simpkins

Mr Nourse — Miss Sohier—

The records of the last meeting were read and approved, but it was stated by the chairman that he had learned that Miss Simpkins appointment was for the full term of five years. & not for the unexpired term as had been recorded at the last meeting — The law had been interpreted to authorize appointments for the full term of five years whenever any vacancy occurred—

The chairman reported that 130 replies had been received to the circular asking information—

A number of the replies were read & almost all of them indicated satisfactory progress—

The report from Colrain stated that the appropriation had been reduced to the

amount required by the law, & that in consequence no new books had been purchased. The librarian had been ill but was now better & the Commission decided it seemed to be a town where donations of books & friendly interest were desirable —

Towns without libraries were considered & possible methods of interesting them

Miss Simpkins undertook to correspond with Nantucket — Mr Tillinghast agreed to write to Lakeville — & the other members to continue their efforts in the other towns

The number of reports on hand was 1439 —

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary

1900

The Commission met Jan 18th 1900
at the State House

Present

Mr Selinghast in the Chair -

Mr Green — Miss Simpkins
Mr Bourne — Miss Sohier -

The records of the last meeting were read & approved

Miss Simpkins reported that the village library in South Yarmouth had been made free & arrangements made to send books once a fortnight from the town library -

The chairman read the annual report. It was voted that the chairman be authorized to sign the report with the names of the members of the Commission & to add any statistic he might think desirable -

The number of reports on hand was 1399 -

The seven towns without libraries were discussed.

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

1900

The Commission met Feb 15th 1900
at the State House

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Present

Mr Green

Mr Howe — Miss Sohier

The records of the last meeting were read & accepted —

Letters were read from Nantucket stating that the town had voted to appropriate $900 to the Athenaeum if it would make its library free — & if that course proved impossible to establish a town library A Committee had been appointed to confer with the proprietors of the Athenaeum & take such other action as might be necessary.

Mr Tillinghast read a letter from the minister of the parish in Norwell to which the existing library belongs which stated that it was free to all teachers & pupils in the High School as well as to members of the parish & to such other

persons as were given permission to use it
He expressed doubt whether it could be transferred
to the town owing to the terms of the gift or
bequest or the wishes of the donor_ The chair-
man stated that he had written for further
information on the subject_

An article will be inserted in the Lakeville
town warrant

Letters were read from Hadley. Only 7
families now take books from the North Hadley
library_

Mr Green had received a letter from
Mr Chase of Lowell concerning Hadley as
Miss Sohier had been promised aid by
the Dolly Varnum Chapter of the Daughters
of the American Revolution in establishing
a library in Dracut_

The desirability of a library school in
Boston was discussed in consequence of
enquiries which had been made_ The Com-
mission felt that there were very few
vacancies in libraries & that graduates would
find it difficult to secure employment.

Adjourned E. P. Sohier Sec'y

The Commission met March 22nd 1900

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the Chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The chairman reported the facts which had been ascertained concerning the seven towns without libraries –

Dracut had voted to establish a free public library & had appropriated $200. for the library & $1000 to fit up a public building which can be used to contain it. By inadvertance the trustees were not elected by ballot & the trustees have written to ask advice – The Secretary had answered that it would be necessary to hold another town meeting & elect the trustees by ballot, or to obtain a special act of the legislature which might be difficult so late in the session –

Hadley had appointed a committee to consider the establishment of a town library & report at an adjourned meeting in April

The Nantucket Athenaeum has voted to

make its library free

The chairman had received a letter from Norwell stating that the chief donor was Mr James who had given $1500 to the library with the understanding that it was to be a parish library although other citizens are permitted to use it upon payment of a fee, & in some cases without payment —

The article had been inserted in the warrant at Gay Head —

Granby had asked advice of the chairman as to the power to prohibit smoking & card-playing in a room used for the library, but also used by the Selectmen & for various public purposes —

1900

The Commission met April 26 1900

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr Towne Miss Sohier

The records of the last meeting were read & approved.

A letter from the Wisconsin Commission was referred to Mr Green -

No definite information had been received from Dracut as to the course decided upon to remedy the illegality of the town meeting & in the election of library trustees

Hadley had accepted the act & elected trustees - The Association libraries will lend their books

In Gay Head the article to establish a library had been indefinitely postponed

In Lakeville the article had been indefinitely postponed.

In Norwell the Commission had been advised to try to interest West Norwell -

North Adams had requested advice as to filling a vacancy in the Board of trustees The chairman agreed to examine the city charter & give such advice as seemed possible

The chairman stated that the act authorizing the Commission to expend $100 for books for towns with a valuation of less than $600,000 had become a law—

The best methods for supplying the books was discussed—

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier
Secretary.

May 17 1900

The Commission met at the State House
Mr Tillinghast in the chair
Present Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Sohier

The questions arising under the Act of 1900 were discussed and it was decided that it would be necessary to prepare in some form a list or lists of books to offer as suggestions to the towns. The chairman had already begun a list & it was partially considered in detail by the board.

The needs of Berlin were referred to Mr Nourse as it appeared that the circulation had recently largely increased & the supply of good books seemed to be inadequate.

An application from Chesterfield was referred to Mr Green.

A request for advice from Dartmouth respecting a branch library was referred to the chairman

The chairman reported that an application had been received from Brewster

but the library did not belong to the town & therefore could not be aided. The circulation had increased threefold since the library was made free –

The situation in Dracut was considered & it was decided that it would be desirable if possible to legalize the election of trustees.

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Sec'y

June 21st 1900

The regular monthly meeting of the Board was held at the State House

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair Mr. Green - Mr Howe

Mr Howe was chosen secretary pro tem during the absence of Miss Scheer in Europe

A communication from Miss Simpkins expressed her regret that important duties prevented her presence at the meeting

The correspondence with the town of Norwell was referred to Miss Simpkins in the hope that a free library may be established in the South Village as a town library, the Commission having failed in its attempt to persuade the Theirst Parish to make the James Library free to all.

A communication from Dracut announced the legalizing of its town meeting action and the preparing of

an upper room in a school house furnace heated & gas lighted as a library & reading room. Advice as to administration & the purchase of books was also sought & the letter was referred to Mr Nourse —

After long discussion about methods to be adopted in carrying out the requirements of the new library law.

Adjourned —

F. S. Nourse
Sec pro tem.

1900

The regular meeting of the Board was held July 19th at the State House

Present.

Mr Tillinghast chairman, Mr Green. Mr Howe.

A letter from Miss Simpkins announced her unavoidable absence & her entrance upon the labor of trying to prevail upon the town of Norwell to establish a free library.

Mr Howe reported correspondence with Deracut but no assistance as yet in the selection of books.

Applications for aid under the new law are not yet numerous & it was decided to reply that such applications will be attended to in the order of receipt, but that the rules under which the books will be furnished have not yet been formulated

The form which such rules should take was then discussed but no vote was taken, it being thought best to defer so important a matter.

Adjourned

Henry S. Howe

Sec pro tem.

The regular meeting of the Free Public Library Commission was held Aug 16 1900

Present

Mr Tillinghast Mr Green Mr Nourse.

A letter from Miss Simpkins was read explaining her unavoidable absence. It was stated that Miss Sohier was still in Europe.

The chairman reported that books had been sent to

Hadley

& had been selected from a list furnished. Mr Green reported correspondence with Chesterfield & reply was read.

Miss Simpkins reported by letter a visit to Nantucket, and that she found the free library patronized by nearly 1000 book borrowers, although the Athenaeum before the change had only 300 — also that the disgruntled shareowners already recognize the public benefits from the new departure

Mr Nourse reported no additional news from Dracut.

The framing of the circular for transmission to applicants for books under the provisions of the new law - which had been discussed at two previous meetings was finally completed

The chairman also presented a hopeful message from New Marlborough in which the opinion was expressed that a benefactor would appear next year to aid in solving the problem of establishing a free library in that town

Adjourned

Henry S. Nourse

Sec'y pro tem.

September 20 1900

The regular monthly meeting was held

Present

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Simpkins

The application of Chesterfield was read & it being thought that the library is not doing all it should for outlying districts the whole subject was referred to Mr Green -

The application of Boxborough was granted & referred to the chairman -

The verbal applications of Truro & Eastham were referred to Miss Simpkins

The regular application of Ashby was referred to Mr Nourse.

The subject of advocating and helping in some way the attendance of the librarians of small libraries at a summer school was discussed. The chairman gave an account of the Simmons Fund & the projects of the trustees.

Adjourned

Henry S. Nourse
Sec't pro tem.

October 18— 1900 —

The regular monthly meeting was held —

Present

Mr Tellinghast — chairman. Mr Green Mr Howse —

Mr Green reported his attendance at the meeting of the Mass^{tts} Library Association at North Adams —

A letter was received from Miss Simpkins regretting absence on account of ill health & enclosing applications for books from Truro and Eastham.

Mr Green read a letter from Chesterfield promising action in accordance with suggestions

Mr Howse reported progress at Dracut — but stated that only an insufficient list had been received as yet —

Voted to grant the applications of Chesterfield Eastham & Truro.

The list of books to be sent to applicants was discussed.

It was voted as a general rule to send only $50 of books in any one year to a library

Adjourned

Henry S. Howse
Sec't pro tem.

Nov 15th 1900

The Commission met Nov 15 1900 —

Mr Tillinghast in the chair

Present

Mr Green Mr Nourse Miss Scherr —

Mr Nourse reported that a list of books desired had been received from Deracut & that the books had been ordered —

A list of 50 books desired by Eastham had been received through Miss Simpkins who was prevented by illness from attending the meeting, but reported in writing through the chairman.

Action upon the application of Orleans was postponed in the belief that some provision for deliveries in that town could probably be arranged before the books were granted —

The application of Hampden was approved —

Informal applications had been received from Sandisfield & Burlington

& circulars had been sent to both towns –

The chairman reported that in consequence of the appeal to Mr Stowell there seemed to be a possibility that the library in that town might be made free –

The annual report was informally discussed

Adjourned
E. P. Sohier
Sec'y –

Dec 1900

The Commission met at the State House Dec 19 1900

Present

Mr Tilling hast in the chair

Mr Green	Miss Simpkins
Mr Course	Miss Sohier

The chairman reported that books had been sent to Deracut.

Books had been sent to Eastham under the law of 1900 —

The application of Orleans was approved after full consideration of the conditions existing in that town, but Miss Simpkins was requested to make such efforts as she considered expedient to increase the facilities in that town by the voluntary action of its trustees.

The application of Burlington was approved

The application of Berlin was referred to Mr Course in the hope that some arrange ment for branches or de-

liveries could be secured —

The application of Sandisfield was referred to the Chairman with full powers —

The chairman stated that a list of books desired had been received from Truro.

The four towns still without libraries were considered —

The chairman stated that the town of Savoy had appropriated $100, but it seemed difficult to find a good librarian & the library there was not yet in a satisfactory condition —

The annual report was discussed

Adjourned

E. P. Sohier

Sec'y